

REMARKS

This communication responds to the Office Action dated June 8, 2005. Claims 1 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takii et al (US 4,264,939). Claims 2-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takii et al (US 4,264,939) in view of admitted prior art disclosed in pages 1-2 of the specification.

Claims 2 - 9 are cancelled.

Claim 1 is amended.

The applicants have amended the claims to recite more precisely why the present invention provides an increased mechanical advantage over the prior art. For that reason, among others, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the above amendments, consider the following comments, and withdraw the standing rejection under Section 102.

As amended, independent claim 1 states a step of “cutting and dividing said assembly in a direction perpendicular to the face of said non-magnetic substance into a plurality of sub-assemblies having an equal size.” Takii et al recites a step of separately cutting rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, 10c, and gap-spacers 11a and 11b. Therefore, Takii et al requires more cutting steps than those of the present invention. Furthermore, in Takii et al, the adjustment of position is needed at every head row in contrast to embodiments of the present invention.

Amended, independent claim 1 further recites “adhering said non-magnetic substance” before “cutting and dividing said assembly in a direction perpendicular to the face of said non-magnetic substance.” Accordingly, only one adjustment is needed for a plurality of head rows. Applicants assert that head rows are assembled before cutting. In applicants method of assembly, the magnetic face that is the sensing face of the front core is located within the assembly, comprising the sandwiching of the non-magnetic substance between magnetic substances, and not external to the assembly as in Takii et al. The cutting method used by Takii et al is performed perpendicular to the cutting method employed by the Applicants. Therefore, upper block 31, lower block 32, and non-magnetic substrate 33 can be assembled in broader faces thereof, which give stable adhering. Applicants respectfully note that “adhering” represents any technique, such as for example welding, for joining a plurality of items together into a single unit.

Applicants have cancelled rejected claims 2-9.

New claim 10 further clarifies that the sensing surface is the surface that is cut. This is opposite the teaching of Takii in which the surface that becomes the sensing surface faces downward on the exposed surface of the assembly. The present invention therefore provides a broader face for the holding of the non-magnetic material, which is not taught by, nor obvious from Takii.

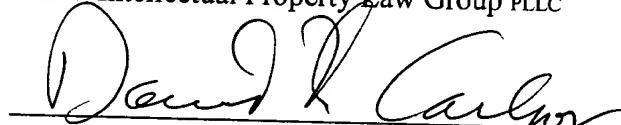
Applicants believe that the above amendments are sufficient to place the pending independent claim in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the standing rejection and allow the claim. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned to discuss any questions or resolve any remaining issues.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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